

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 22, 23, and 27, without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8-10, 13, 14, 18, 19, and 26, as follows:

1(amended). Cells for the production of helper dependent adenoviral vectors, including at least the following genic units:

- a first genic unit comprising an adenovirus defective genome having the inverted terminal repeats in head-to-tail configuration, the encapsidation signal inactivated, and at least one of the non-structural regions inactivated;

- a second genic unit ~~units~~ comprising at least one inducible promoter and at least one of the regions inactivated in the first genic unit, said regions being under the control of said inducible promoter;

whereby following the activation of the inducible promoter of the second genic unit and the infection of the cells with said helper dependent adenoviral vectors, the first genic unit and the second genic unit enable the production of said helper dependent ~~defective~~ adenoviral vectors in said cells in absence of helper vector.

D¹⁹ 2(amended). Cells according to claim 1, wherein the first genic unit is integrated in the genome of the cells and has at both the extremities inverted ~~Inverted~~ terminal repeats ~~Repeats~~ in head-to-tail configuration.

I²⁰ 5(amended). Cells according to claim 4, wherein the gene coding for an the activating factor of said origin of replication is further included in the episomal unit.

6(amended). Cells according to claim 4, wherein the gene coding for an the activating factor of said origin of replication is integrated in the genome.

8(amended). Cells according to claim 1, wherein the encapsidation signal of the adenovirus defective genome of the first genic unit is inactivated by total or partial deletion.

D²¹

D21

9(amended). Cells according to claim 1, wherein the non-structural regions of the adenovirus defective genome of the first genic unit is inactivated by total or partial deletion.

10(amended). Cells according to claim 1, wherein the inactivated regions of the first genic unit are selected from the group consisting of E1, ~~E2~~ E2A, E2B, and E4.

13(amended). Cells according to claim 10, wherein said regions are E1, E4 and E2B ~~E2b~~ polymerase.

D22

14(amended). Cells according to claim 10, wherein said regions are E1, E4 and E2B ~~E2b~~ preterminal protein (PTP).

18(amended). Cells according to claim 1 wherein the adenovirus defective genome of the first genic unit is totally or partially constituted by the genome of a human adenovirus.

D23

19(amended). Cells according to claim 18, wherein said adenovirus defective genome of the first genic unit is totally ~~o~~ or partially constituted by the genome of at least one of the human adenoviruses Ad2 and Ad5.

26(amended). Compositions comprising the cell of claim 1, a vehicle or a carrier, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that said composition is free of contaminating helper viruses.

D24